

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 137729
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 CIAE-00
PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15
SP-02 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 H-02 /102 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

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AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

UNCLAS STATE 137729

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING BY SECRETARY VANCE AT NATO CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING ARE SELECTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE SECRETARY'S BRIEFING AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE NATO SUMMIT, WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 30, 1978. THEY RELATE TO THE UPCOMING MEETINGS IN PARIS AND BRUSSELS ON ZAIRE.

MR. SECRETARY, WOULD YOU EXPLAIN TO US WHAT THIS UPCOMING MEETING OF LEADING MEMBERS OF NATO IN PARIS IS ABOUT, AND WHAT YOU EXPECT TO ACCOMPLISH, AND WHAT THE PARAMETERS OF THE POSSIBILITIES THAT MIGHT COME FROM IT ARE, AS MUCH AS YOU COULD?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE UPCOMING MEETING IN PARIS WHICH WILL
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THE BRUSSELS MEETING IS A MEETING AT WHICH THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION IN SOME DEPTH OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF ZAIRE CREATED BY THE SITUATION IN THE SHABA, AND BY REASON OF SOME FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE EXISTED FOR A LONG WHILE, APART FROM THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS CREATED BY

WHAT HAS RECENTLY BEEN HAPPENING IN THE SHABA.

THERE WILL BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING IN BELGIUM THE ZAIRIANS AS WELL AS INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS FROM THE WEST. THE UNITED STATES WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THAT MEETING, AS I BELIEVE OBVIOUSLY ALSO WILL BE THE FRENCH, THE BELGIANS, AND I WOULD EXPECT ALSO AT LEAST THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU GOT THE SUPPORT THAT YOU WOULD HAVE WISHED IN REFERENCE TO AFRICA FROM THE OTHER NATO LEADERS TODAY?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE ANSWER IS YES. I THINK THERE WAS A VERY USEFUL DISCUSSION OF THE AFRICAN SITUATION. THERE WAS CONCERN EXPRESSED BY ALL WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENTS AND RECENT ACTIVITIES IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, AND PARTICULARLY THAT ARISING MOST RECENTLY OUT OF THE ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN THE INVASION OF THE SHABA REGION OF ZAIRE.

IT WAS POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THESE ARE VERY, VERY COMPLEX PROBLEMS; THAT THEIR ROOTS ARE DEEPER OFTEN THAN MERELY EAST-WEST DIFFERENCES; AND THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ANALYZE WHAT THESE FUNDAMENTAL AND DEEP ROOTS OFTEN ARE, BECAUSE SOMETIMES THEY ARISE OUT OF SUCH MATTERS AS THE FACT THAT TRIBEL ENTITIES CROSS BORDERS, WITH ALL THE CON-

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SEQUENT PROBLEMS THAT ARE RAISED BY THOSE KINDS OF SITUATIONS.

A SECOND GENERAL CONSENSUS WHICH CAME OUT OF THE DISCUSSION WAS THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THOSE OF US WHO HAVE INTERESTS IN TRYING TO SEE A MORE PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN SITUATION SHOULD USE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO HELP IN BRINGING ABOUT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES THAT EXIST IN THAT AREA, AND THAT THIS BE DONE BY PEACEFUL MEANS, RATHER THAN BY MILITARY MEANS THUS FUELING THE CONFLICT.

TWO EXAMPLES OF THIS WHICH WERE TALKED ABOUT AT SOME LENGTH WERE THE EFFORTS WHICH WERE BEING MADE BY THE SO-CALLED GROUP OF FIVE, THE FIVE SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR OVER A YEAR AT TRYING TO HELP WITH FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM; AND THE SECOND, OF COURSE, IS THE INITIATIVE WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON WITH RESPECT TO RHODESIA, AND THE HELP OF PRINCIPALLY THE BRITISH AND OURSELVES IN WORKING WITH THE PARTIES TO TRY AND BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL AND LASTING SOLUTION OF THAT PROBLEM.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, WE HAD A QUITE GOOD FILL-IN FROM HODDING CARTER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, AT NOON TODAY AS TO HOW THE AFRICAN SITUATION STOOD AT THAT TIME, AS YOU WANTED IT PRESENTED. BUT SINCE THEN, COULD YOU BRING US UP TO DATE, AND PARTICULARLY ON YOUR OWN PERCEPTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES -- WHAT THE UNITED STATES IS CONTEMPLATING IN AFRICA? AND IF YOU WILL FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING A SECOND RELATED QUESTION, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOUR ASSESSMENT IS AT THIS TIME OF THE DEGREE OF STRAIN THAT SITUATION PLACES UPON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN REFERENCE TO SALT?

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SECRETARY VANCE: ALL RIGHT, LET ME TAKE YOUR SECOND QUESTION FIRST AND THEN I WILL COME BACK TO THE OTHER QUESTION.

THE SITUATION IN AFRICA OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAS CLEARLY HAD AN EFFECT UPON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WHICH HAS INCREASED THE STRAINS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS.

THIS IS NOT NEWS TO ANYBODY. I THINK EVERYBODY WHO HAS BEEN FOLLOWING THIS FROM READING THE NEWSPAPERS AND WATCHING TELEVISION IS WELL AWARE OF THAT FACT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, AS I HAVE SAID ON SO MANY OCCASIONS THAT YOU ALL MUST BE SICK AND TIRED OF HEARING IT, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE NEGOTIATION OF A SALT AGREEMENT, IT SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED ON ITS OWN MERITS; AND IF A SOUND AGREEMENT IS NEGOTIATED, NAMELY ONE WHICH ENHANCES OUR SECURITY AND THAT OF OUR ALLIES, THAT IT SHOULD BE CONCLUDED BECAUSE IT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST TO DO SO.

I DO NOT THINK THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT WE SIGN AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS IN OUR INTEREST SHOULD DEPEND UPON GOOD WILL OR WHAT SOMEBODY HAPPENS TO BE DOING ON A GIVEN DAY IN TERMS OF BEING ON GOOD BEHAVIOR OR BAD BEHAVIOR.

WHAT I THINK IS IMPORTANT IS WHAT ADVANCES OUR NATIONAL INTEREST, AND IF IT ADVANCES OUR NATIONAL INTEREST, THEN I THINK WE OUGHT TO GO AHEAD AND SIGN SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

NOW, I WOULD POINT OUT, AS I HAVE BEFORE, THAT OBVIOUSLY, HAVING SAID THAT, ONE HAS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE KINDS OF THINGS THAT HAPPEN, SUCH AS WHAT THE SITUATION HAS BEEN IN ETHIOPIA AND NOW WE FIND OCCURRING ELSEWHERE ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, DOES AFFECT THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, AND THIS CAN HAVE AN EFFECT UPON THE RATIFICATION PROCESS.

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SECRETARY VANCE: AS I SAID EARLIER, THAT IS PRELIMINARY TO A CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE DEALING WITH THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF ZAIRE. AND I INDICATED THAT THOSE HAD TWO ROOTS; NAMELY, THOSE COMING OUT OF THE RECENT INVASION, AND, SECONDLY, MUCH MORE DEEP-SEATED AND LONGER-LASTING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

WE WILL BE AT THE PARIS CONFERENCE DISCUSSING SOME OF THE PRELIMINARY STEPS THAT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR US TO HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT BEFORE WE GO INTO A MEETING WITH A BROADER GROUP, INCLUDING THE ZAIRIANS, IN THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 137729 SENT ACTION DAR ES SALAAM,
KINSHASA, LUBUMBASHI, BRUSSELS, PARIS, ROME, LUSAKA, LISBON,
USUN NEW YORK, USICA, BRAZZAVILLE, RABAT, NAIROBI, ACCRA,
MONROVIA, BANJUL, BUKAVU, PRETORIA, LAGOS, BANGUI, BUJUMBURA,
KIGALI, LONDON, BONN., USNATO, MASERU, PORT LOUIS, MAPUTO,
VICTORIA, MOGADISCIO, COTONOU, YAOUNDE, PRAIA, ADDIS ABABA,
DJIBOUTI, ABIDJAN, KHARTOUM, BERLIN 31 MAY 78

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 137729

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Draft Date: 31 may 1978
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS BRIEFING BY SECRETARY VANCE AT NATO CONFERENCE FOLLOWING ARE SELECTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE SECRE- TARY'S BRIEFING AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST DAY
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, CG, NATO, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: DAR ES SALAAM KINSHASA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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